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The Black Heritage Council honors Antioch Baptist Church in Camden for distinguished service

The Black Heritage Council (BHC) of the Alabama Historical Commission has awarded a 2009 Idella Childs Distinguished Service Award to The Antioch Baptist Church in Camden. The award is given annually to individuals and groups whose contributions demonstrate excellence in historic preservation.

This award recognizes the outstanding efforts of members of the church and its leaders as well as community leaders in restoring one of the oldest African American churches remaining in Camden. Antioch, originally constructed in 1885, features Gothic style architecture and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was the site of mass meetings in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement. It was also used as a staging site for protestors leading marches to the Wilcox County Courthouse to register to vote. Dr. Martin Luther King spoke at a meeting in the building in the 1960s. As the church members work on the building, they are being supported by individuals and groups from all across the community.

The BHC presented the award October 9 during this year's Alabama Preservation Conference in Auburn.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the **Alabama Historical Commission**, the **State Historic Preservation Office**.*

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